

and state gaming issues.”<sup>587</sup> No witness or document could be found to recall specifically how and when this new line item was created, or why the figure of half a million dollars was selected – a very substantial amount compared to other line items in the same budget.

There is some evidence of how the 1996 Shakopee contributions were solicited, in each case shedding further light on the overall progression of DNC Indian fund-raising. The first \$5,000 contribution, dated May 17, 1996, was raised by DNC Midwest Finance Director Mark Thomann in connection with a May 22 reception and dinner in honor of Vice President Gore in Minneapolis. Thomann knew the reputation of the Shakopee as a wealthy tribe and approached Hardacker, Stanley Crooks and Glynn Crooks in early 1996 about making a \$50,000 contribution to obtain DNC trustee status. The tribe settled on the \$5,000 donation instead. Thomann also coordinated his effort to raise funds for the May 22 event with Patrick and Evelyn O’Connor and Larry Kitto, who served as chairpersons for the evening. With the help of Patrick O’Connor and Kitto, the DNC also raised \$5,000 each from the Lower Sioux and Prairie Island tribes and \$2,000 from the Fond du Lac in connection with this event. Thomann recalls no awareness of the Hudson casino application at that time, and no mention of that matter during his discussions with O’Connor, Kitto and the tribes in connection with this fund-raising effort.

The next Shakopee contribution was made in connection with the tribe’s June 4, 1996, meeting with Fowler on the tribal adoption ordinance matter before Interior. *See* Section II.E.2.h.2, *supra*. To help it secure a favorable ruling on the issue, the tribe had retained outside legal counsel with substantial experience and connections to the Department: former DOI Chief of Staff Collier, and his new employer, Steptoe & Johnson. Shakopee Chairman Stanley Crooks

---

<sup>587</sup>OIC Interview of Paul Kempf, June 1, 1999, at 1.